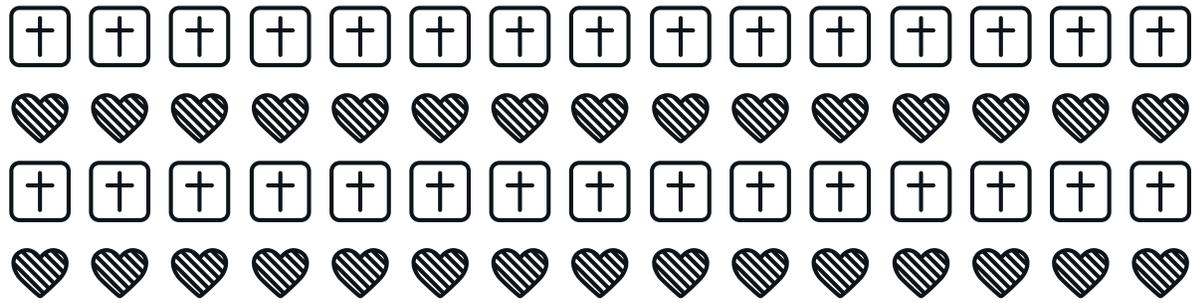


Bible Sunday Sermon



9-21-2025

Sermon: “Born Again: What It Means, Why It Matters, How It Happens”

Text: John 3:1–21 (NIV)

John 3:1-21 NIV

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. [2] He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are

doing if God were not with him." [3] Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." [4] "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. [6] Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. [7] You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' [8] The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." [9] "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. [10] "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? [11] Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. [12] I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you

believe if I speak of heavenly things? [13] No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven-the Son of Man. [14] Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, [15] that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." [16] For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. [18] Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. [19] This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. [20] Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. [21] But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen

plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Opening Prayer

“Father God, thank You for this day and for bringing us together in spirit. As we open Your Word, open our hearts. Help us understand this most important truth — what it means to be born again. Speak to every heart today. Draw us close to You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Introduction

We often hear the phrase “born again”. It’s used by preachers, believers, even in everyday conversations — but what does it really mean? Is it just a religious term or a requirement for everyone?

Jesus said in ***John 3:3 (NIV):***
“Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

That’s clear: being born again is not optional. It’s a requirement to enter God’s kingdom. So today we’ll look at three key questions:

1. What does it mean to be born again?
2. Why must we be born again?
3. How can a person be born again?

♥ What Does It Mean to Be Born Again?

A conversation with Nicodemus

In **John 3:1-2 (NIV)** we read:

“Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.’”

Nicodemus was a religious leader — educated, moral, and respected — but even he didn’t understand this spiritual truth.

Jesus told him plainly in John 3:7 (NIV):

John 3:7 NIV

You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’

“You must be born again.”

Born physically vs. born spiritually

Being born again means a second birth, not physical, but spiritual.

Jesus explains in ***John 3:6 (NIV):***
“Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”

- Our first birth gave us physical life.
- But because of sin, our spirits are dead toward God.
- The new birth is when God’s Spirit brings our spirit to life, giving us a new heart and a new nature.

So being born again is a spiritual transformation — a new beginning — where God makes us His children.

♥ Why Must We Be Born Again?

Because of our sinful condition

In **Ephesians 2:1 (NIV)**, Paul writes:

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.”

We may be physically alive, but spiritually dead — separated from God because of sin.

Isaiah says:

Isaiah 59:2 NIV

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

We need a new nature

Even good works, religion, or moral living cannot fix this problem.

Titus 3:5 NIV

he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

We must be born again because:

- We are sinners by nature and by choice.
- We can't enter heaven as we are.
- God must give us a new heart and spirit.

♥ How Can a Person Be Born Again?

A work of God through faith in Jesus

John 3:16 (NIV) gives the answer clearly:

John 3:16 NIV

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Being born again happens when a person puts their trust in Jesus Christ:

☒ Acknowledge your sin.

☒ Believe that Jesus died for your sins and rose again.

☒ Personally trust Him as your Lord and Savior.

Not by works — but by grace through faith

Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- [9] not by works, so that no one can boast.

There's nothing we can earn, buy, or do to deserve this new birth — it's a gift of grace.

The evidence of being born again

How do you know if you're truly born again?

♥ The Holy Spirit comes to live in you.

♥ You begin to love God and others in a new way.

♥ Your desires change — you want to live to please God.

♥ You grow in faith and knowledge of His Word.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

An Invitation:

Maybe you're here today and you're asking, "How do I start? How do I know I'm born again?"

The Bible says simply:

Romans 10:13 NIV

for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

This is a personal decision — no one can make it for you.

A Simple Prayer of Faith

If you've never been born again, you can pray something like this:

“Lord Jesus, I admit that I am a sinner. I believe You died on the cross for me and rose again. I ask You to forgive me. I trust You as my Lord and Savior. Please come into my life and make me born again. Thank You for saving me. In Your name I pray. Amen.”

Conclusion: Why it matters today

This is not just theology or theory — this is eternity.

Jesus said: **John 3:7 NIV**
You should not be surprised at my saying,
'You must be born again.'

"You must be born again."

It's a command and an invitation — to receive:

- Forgiveness of sins
- New life
- A place in God's family
- Eternal life in heaven

Closing Prayer:

“Father, thank You for this precious truth — that though we are sinners, You made a way for us to be born again through Your Son Jesus Christ. I pray for every heart here today: if anyone has not yet trusted in Jesus, draw them to Yourself by Your Spirit. And for those who have, help us walk in this new life You’ve given. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

